



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Care & Control's "Animal Education Series" Kicks Off June 12 at Sterling Community Center

May 20, 2010 – Waterford, VA – Animal Care & Control is teaming up with the Sterling Community Center to present the "Animal Education Series" –monthly workshops devoted to all things animal!

Experts from Animal Care & Control will teach each 2-hour course with a focus on educating current and future pet owners on ways to care for and ensure the well being of their pets. Registration is only \$1, and class sizes are limited. Registration can be done online through WebTrac at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac, or by calling the Sterling Community Center at 703-430-9480. Classes will be held at the Community Center, located at 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling.

Following is a list of the 2010 course offerings:

June 12: Dogs 101: Behavior & Training

Learn how dogs communicate through body language and how to read the signals that they give us. Find out tips on how to safely introduce two dogs, and how to tell the difference between appropriate play and problem interactions. Plus get some tips for basic training using positive reinforcement methods!

July 10: All About Animal Control

Meet Animal Control Officers and learn how they help serve our community! Find out common laws and issues that Animal Control encounters, and how to ensure your pet is being a good neighbor. Learn ways to spot animal cruelty and how to report concerns. Also learn appropriate ways to keep your pets safely confined and tips on how to construct safe outdoor housing for animals.

August 14: Pet First Aid

Would you know what to do if your pet was suddenly injured or ill? Knowing first aid is a must for all pet owners. Learn basic first aid skills, safe handling for injured animals, and the supplies needed to stock a pet first aid kit for both home and travel.

September 11: Disaster Preparedness for Pet Owners

Do you have a plan for your pets in case disaster strikes? Learn how to provide for your pets in your family's plan and the supplies to keep on hand in case of a disaster. Get an inside view of Animal Care & Control's pet emergency supply vehicles and learn how we respond when pets are involved in disasters.

October 16: Baby Ready Pets

Expecting a new arrival? Is your pet ready to meet your bundle of joy? A new baby can be stressful, especially for pets that are used to being the "baby" of the family. Get the tools you need to help your pets welcome their new family member in a safe way. Participants will receive helpful handouts and a CD of baby sounds to play for their pets.

November 13: Preparing Pets for Cold Weather

The days are shorter and the nights are colder – are your pets prepared for cold weather? Get tips on how to best care for pets when the temperature drops. Some animals, such as the elderly or pets with special medical needs, need extra consideration in winter months. Animals who primarily live outdoors are also at risk. Learn how to safely manage cold weather conditions and how to prevent common hazards that come with the winter holiday season.

December 11: Choosing the Right Pet for You & Your Family

Adding a pet is a decision that should be made thoughtfully, with all members of the family. This family-friendly workshop will help you decide which pet is best for you, what to expect with a new pet, how to pet proof your home and how to prepare for the responsibility of pet ownership.

For more information on the Animal Education Series, visit Animal Care & Control's website at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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